



## A preview of things to come . . .



Y. Kaquatosh/MNN

A late-winter heat wave pushed temperatures into the 70s, banishing winter coats and bringing shorts and T-shirts out of the closet. At right, Mary Knope, assistant cook/teacher aide employed at Menominee Tribal Day Care, took advantage of the rare winter warmup taking two infant girls for a stroll Wednesday afternoon. "The minute I had them outside they were just quiet," said Mary. Above, jackets were left inside when the children were allowed in the playground at the Day Care Center. Menominee Indian School District students were fortunate to have the afternoon off due to teacher inservice. Some youth were seen shooting hoops at the local basketball court 'slam city'. There were record highs statewide. Wednesday's high was 76 degrees.

## Delay in Settlement funds due to mandatory time lines

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh  
Menominee Nation News

Now that the Public Hearing has been conducted with regard to the Settlement Funds Distribution, the transcript from the listening session that was held on February 26<sup>th</sup>, will be reviewed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

See **SETTLEMENT** page 2

## Changes seen with Annual Menominee Contest Pow wow

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh  
Menominee Nation News

Due to a critical need for an Education Supplement, the Menominee Tribal Legislature depleted the Pow wow budget in the amount of \$80,000.00, therefore, eliminating the total budget allocated for the annual Menominee Contest Pow wow.

The measure was done via poll vote on February 4<sup>th</sup> and was

See **POW WOW** page 2

## Reservation slaying brings murder charge

Associated Press

KESHENA, Wis. — A teen-ager accused of beating a man to death on the Menominee Indian Reservation told in-

vestigators he remembered hitting the victim with something but couldn't remember what it was, a criminal complaint says.

Mitchell Crowe, 18, of Keshena also is quoted as saying he had been drinking before the incident, and that the victim, Leonard Johnson, had gotten out of his car and threatened to beat up two males standing nearby.

Crowe first told authorities he hit Johnson twice with his fist, but when confronted by witness statements that he used a club, he said he remembered hitting Johnson with some sort of object that could probably be found in the area where the incident happened, the complaint stated.

See **SLAYING** page 2

## Menominee Tribe receives Funds for Fingerprint transmission System

Special to  
Menominee Nation News

Governor Tommy Thompson recently announced that a grant award of \$36,370 has been made to the Menominee Tribal Police Department to purchase criminal fingerprint transmission equipment, and for other related costs. The equipment will enable the electronic scanning and transmission of fingerprints of persons arrested to the state's criminal history record repository. Through this and similar grants to other cities and counties, this program is intended

to increase the accuracy and timeliness of criminal record information available to all law enforcement agencies in the state. The grant also provides funds to cover the maintenance fees for the scanning equipment for an additional two years.

The grant award is from the National Criminal History Improvement Program, which provides funds to the State for improvements to the state's criminal records system. The grant program is administered by the State Office of Justice Assistance.

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## POWWOW:

conducted by Tribal Attorney Rita Keshena.

An additional \$20,000.00 was taken out of the Economic Development budget bringing the total emergency education allocation to \$100,000.00.

The poll vote was necessary due to the fact that students would lose their education registrations and be forced to drop out of school if immediate financial assistance was not available.

The proposal to reallocate tribal funds already committed in the Tribal Budget was made by Chairman Apesanahkwat, therefore an ordinance amendment was not necessary because a budget modification was made.

As a result, Margaret Snow, Culture Committee Chairperson, was directed to solicit funds from businesses in and around the community. This practice has been done in the past, however, this time around, volunteers are needed to assist with fundraising efforts.

"This is an enormous task in itself and calls for dedicated individuals who will be willing to work long hours to successfully reach specific goals," said Margaret Snow.

Fundraising possibilities are currently underway, however, efforts will not be in full swing until the new committee members are installed in early April.

No further action has been taken by the Menominee Tribal Legislature with regard to the Menominee Powwow budget.

## SETTLEMENT:

along with any possible modifications to the plan that might be included.

Once this is compiled, all the information will then get packaged up and shipped to the Secretary of Interior where it will be reviewed further. If there are no problems, it will then go to both houses of Congress. Both houses have up to sixty (60) Congressional days (when both houses are in session at the same time), to review for final approval.

"It is important for tribal members to understand that time lines are dictated by law," explained Betty Jo Wozniak, Menominee Tribal Administrator. The issue is no longer in the hands of Tribal Administration or the Menominee Tribal Legislature.

The main purpose of the hearing was to take comments from individual tribal members. "No decisions were made, (and) there was no debate at the meeting," added Ms. Wozniak.

Once the sixty (60) Congressional days are up, the proposal will be approved. Distribution of the Judgment Funds will be completed within 30 days of the Congressional approval. Tribal officials expect per capita distribution to be approximately mid to late June 2000.

All interest earned on settlement funds up to the time of distribution to the Tribe for implementation of this plan, are being considered to be added to the FY 2000 Tribal budget - revenue side - to reduce the reliance on Transfers from Investment by the like amount. The estimated amount of interest is, at a minimum, approximately \$1,500,000.00.

#### SLAYING:

A witness said Johnson yelled "I'm going to get you," before slamming Johnson's head with a table leg. The complaint said authorities recovered the table leg in a nearby woods.

Johnson, 28, of Keshena, was fatally injured early Saturday at a residence on the reservation. Crowe was scheduled to appear in US District Court in Milwaukee today on a murder charge.

According to the complaint, Menominee Tribal Police were called to the residence at 3:18 a.m. and found Johnson in a vehicle. He was taken to the Shawano Medical Center where he was pronounced dead at 4:17 a.m.

Elizabeth Blackwood, an assistant US attorney, said some sort of disagreement preceded the attack, but all the details were not yet known.